Thoughts on *The Great Gatsby* Essay

What I’m looking for…

* Give some kind of **introduction** that hooks the reader, introduces the book and the author, and your thesis.
* Thesis should not list all of the ideas that are going to be in your body paragraphs. Just give the big idea and get down to doing the nitty-gritty work of proving that idea through analysis of carefully chosen textual evidence. (Please analyze a minimum of **three passages**.)
* Body paragraphs do not need to be in the formulaic SQA format; in fact, I discourage using a repetitive format. (This is not a DBQ.)
* The bulk of your grade is based on your ability to employ deep **critical thinking** through **analysis of specific passages** from the novel.
* Unpack quotations by focusing on specific **diction** that helps you glean meaning.
* Do not simply regurgitate the ideas from the discussions we had in class. I’m looking for **new ideas** that illustrate your creative critical thinking skills.
* Avoid irresponsible speculation.
* Use **sentence variety** and **sophisticated punctuation** such as semi-colons, colons, and dashes.
* When possible, create **metaphors** that help elucidate your ideas and analysis.
* Avoid clichés like the plague…err…I mean, avoid clichés like a moose during rutting season.
* Create a **formal voice** seasoned with informal diction—that’s how one creates an engaging academic voice.
* Don’t be boring in your writing style or in your critical thinking. Choose interesting diction. Be nimble and acrobatic in your thinking. Make this paper sing from the first sentence to the last.
* **Organize** your essay in a logical order. When in doubt simply organize your ideas in chronological order.
* Give some kind of **conclusion** that wraps up your essay in a satisfying manner.